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IMMEDIATE

FRP:
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SECRET NOFORN NOCONTRACT ORCON-PROPLIN
BRIEF 190349Z
TO: IMMEDIATE ROUTINE MEA BRIEF.

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SUBJECT: MEA BRIEF FOR 19 SEPTEMBER 1986.

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS

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Approved for Release
Date JUN 1999

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2. SRI LANKA: FIGHTING IN THE EAST

TAMIL INSURGENTS AND GOVERNMENT FORCES HAVE BEEN EMBROILED IN HEAVY FIGHTING FOR THE PAST WEEK IN SRI LANKA'S STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT EASTERN PROVINCE. THE INSURGENTS DESTROYED A BRIDGE TO THE BATTICALOA PENINSULA LAST SATURDAY, HAMPERING THE FLOW OF CIVILIAN TRAFFIC AND FOOD TO BATTICALOA, THE AREA'S MAJOR CITY. THE GOVERNMENT IS MAKING CONTINGENCY PLANS TO SUPPLY THE CITY WITH FOOD AND FUEL IF FIGHTING CONTINUES. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN CLAIM AIR FORCE PLANES ATTACKED INSURGENT BUNKERS NEAR THE CITY LAST TUESDAY. A CAR BOMB PLACED BY MILITANTS KILLED SEVEN PEOPLE YESTERDAY.

THE INTENSIFIED FIGHTING SUGGESTS THE INSURGENTS ARE TRYING TO STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITION IN THE EAST BEFORE A PEACE ACCORD IS CONCLUDED. THE MILITANTS PROBABLY HOPE TO EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT AND STIR UP POPULAR DISCONTENT BY DISRUPTING TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC IN THE AREA. THE GOVERNMENT IS IN NO IMMEDIATE DANGER OF LOSING BATTICALOA, BUT MAY FIND IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO ENSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AND TO TROOPS IN THE AREA.

3. INBRIEFS

MIDDLE EAST

--IRAQ CLAIMS IT ATTACKED REMAINING OIL TERMINALS AT IRAN'S KHARK ISLAND YESTERDAY . . . RISKING MORE FORCEFUL IRANIAN RETALIATION AGAINST TARGETS IN NORTHERN GULF . . .

SOUTH ASIA

--PAKISTANI OPPOSITION POSTPONING NEW PROTEST CAMPAIGN UNTIL 10 OCTOBER . . . TRYING TO OVERCOME ORGANIZATIONAL, DISCIPLINARY WEAKNESSES REVEALED DURING AUGUST CAMPAIGN LED BY BENAZIR BHUTTO GIVES GOVERNMENT TIME TO TAKE PREEMPTIVE MEASURES.

AFRICA

--SOUTH AFRICA'S RULING NATIONAL PARTY SCORED IMPORTANT WIN IN PARLIAMENTARY BYELECTION WEDNESDAY . . . LARGE MARGIN OVER COMBINED RIGHTWING OPPOSITION BUOYS GOVERNMENT . . . MAKES EARLY GENERAL

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ELECTION LIKELY. [REDACTED]

--MOZAMBIKAN REBEL LEADER YESTERDAY VOWED PUBLICLY TO CONTINUE
ATTACKING BEIRA TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR TO ZIMBABWE . . . TARGETS
INCLUDE OIL PIPELINE, RAIL, ROAD LINKS . . . RECENT ATTACKS HAVE
CAUSED LITTLE DAMAGE BUT UNDERScore VULNERABILITY OF CORRIDOR. [REDACTED] b3

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